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REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15-23, 24, 26, 28, 30-32, 34, 37, and 39-41 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Action states that the publication number of the Shinomiya reference is incorrect. Applicants hereby resubmit a list of IDS references cited by the Applicants on October 29, 2004, which contains a correct publication number of the Shinomiya reference. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the reference.

II. DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to because of lack of a descriptive legend for various acronyms. The Examiner indicated withdrawal of the objections in a telephone message to the undersigned left on July 20, 2007, stating that the acronyms in the drawings are well-known in the art. As such, Applicants have not amended the drawings at this stage.

III. SPECIFICATION

The abstract of the disclosure stands objected to. The abstract has been amended herein to address the Examiner's concern. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

IV. OBJECTIONS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15-18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30-32, 34, 37, and 39-41 stand objected because of the informalities. These claims have been amended herein as suggested by the Examiner.

It is noted that some of the phrase "configured to" in claims 30 and 39 have been kept in order to properly define what Applicants believe these claims should cover. For example, by reciting "a primary gateway device configured to control traffic flow ...," claims 30 and 39 cover a gateway device which actually does not control traffic flow when manufactured, but will be capable of controlling when used by an end user. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that use of the phrase "configured to" in claims 30 and 39 should be allowed. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

V. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS UNDER § 112

Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 24, 28, 30, and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. These claims, where appropriate, have been amended to address the Examiner's concern. It is noted, however, that claim 10, lines 10-11 do not contain "the redundancy group." As such, claim 10 has not been amended herein in this regard. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

VI. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS UNDER § 101

Claims 15-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to a non-statutory subject matter. These claims have been amended herein to recite "computer readable medium" as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

VII. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 4-6, 11, 14, 19-21, 25-27, 33-35, 40, and 43 subject to being amended to independent form, and overcoming the 112 rejections. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

VIII. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 7-8, 10, 12-13, 15, 17-18, 22, 24, 28, 30-32, 36-37, 39, and 41-42 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,397,260 (Wils) and U.S. Patent No. 6,295,276 (Datta). Claims 8-9, 22-23, 28-29, and 37-38 stand rejected as being unpatentable over a combination of Wils, Datta, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/037165 (Shinomiya). Applicants believe that these claims are now allowable over the cited art for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1, 10, 15, 24, 30, and 39 have been amended herein to further clarify one of the feature of the invention. For example, claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*, "adjusting the traffic flow by changing allocation of the forwarding addresses." Other independent claims contain limitations similar to that of claim 1. The above-identified limitation of, for example, claim 1, encompasses what was originally recited in claims 4 and 6. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

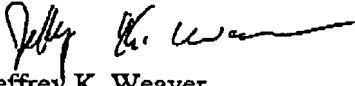
Since claims 4 and 6 have been indicated allowable over the cited art, independent claim 1 which now recites such an allowable subject matter generically is also believed to be allowable. This applies to other independent claims, *mutatis mutandis*. Therefore, the invention

of independent claims 1, 10, 15, 24, 30, and 39, and their dependent claims is believed to be allowable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

IX. CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-663-1100.

Respectfully submitted,
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